

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): A central control station, ~~which controls~~ provided in a mobile communication system which includes a plurality of radio base stations, the central control station for controlling the radio base stations connected thereto via radio links and optical fiber links, and an upper-level station connected to the central control station, comprising:

a demultiplexing unit which demultiplexes ~~signals~~ a signal supplied from ~~[[an]]~~ the upper-level station to generate a plurality of sequences of signals, and multiplexes a plurality of sequences of signals received from the base stations into a single signal for transmission to the upper level station;

signal conversion units which are coupled to said demultiplexing unit and convert the respective demultiplexed sequences of signals into converted signals having a unified transmission format;

radio signal transmitting and receiving units and optical signal transmitting and receiving units which transmit and receive signals via radio links or optical fiber links that are provided for connection with the base stations; and

a distribution unit which is provided between said signal conversion units and units of said radio signal transmitting and receiving units and said optical signal transmitting and receiving units, and provides a communication connection for sending the converted signals having the unified format between a predetermined one of the base stations and the upper-level station ~~distributes the converted signals to the radio links and the optical fiber links.~~

Claim 2-10 (Canceled).

Claim 11 (New): The central control station as claimed in claim 1, wherein said signal conversion units include a modulation/demodulation unit.

Claim 12 (New): The central control station as claimed in claim 1, wherein said signal conversion units include a modulation/demodulation unit and a radio frequency conversion unit.

Claim 13 (New): The central control station as claimed in claim 1, wherein said signal conversion units include a base-band modulation/demodulation unit.

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Cont.
Claim 14 (New): A central control station provided in a mobile communication system which includes a plurality of radio base stations, the central control station for controlling the radio base stations connected thereto and an upper-level station connected to the central control station, comprising:


a demultiplexing unit which demultiplexes a signal supplied from the upper-level station to generate a plurality of sequences of signals, and multiplexes a plurality of sequences of signals received from the base stations into a single signal for transmission to the upper level station;

means for converting the demultiplexed sequences of signals into converted signals having a unified format compatible with both radio links and optical fiber links;

radio signal transmitting and receiving units and optical signal transmitting and receiving units which transmit and receive signals via said radio links or said optical fiber links that are provided for connection with the base stations; and

a distribution unit which is provided between said signal conversion means and units of said radio signal transmitting and receiving units and said optical signal transmitting and receiving units, and provides a communication connection for sending the converted signals having the unified format between a predetermined one of the base stations and the upper-level station.

Claim 15 (New): The central control station as claimed in claim 14, wherein said signal conversion means include a modulation/demodulation unit.

 Claim 16 (New): The central control station as claimed in claim 14, wherein said signal conversion means include a modulation/demodulation unit and a radio frequency conversion unit.

Claim 17 (New): The central control station as claimed in claim 14, wherein said signal conversion means include a base-band modulation/demodulation unit.

Claim 18 (New): A method for controlling radio base stations connected to an upper-level station in a mobile communication system, the method comprising the steps of:

demultiplexing a signal supplied from the upper-level station to generate a plurality of sequences of signals, and multiplexing a plurality of sequences of signals received from the base stations into a single signal for transmission to the upper level station;

converting the demultiplexed sequences of signals into converted signals having a unified format compatible with both radio links and optical fiber links;

transmitting and receiving signals via said radio links or said optical fiber links that are provided for connection with the base stations; and

Al Cont. providing a communication connection for sending the converted signals having the unified format between a predetermined one of the base stations and the upper-level station.
